

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
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R 161330Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9778
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMCONSUL PORT SAID UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT PINR EG
SUBJECT: "NASSERIST" STUDENTS RIOT AT MANSURA UNIVERSITY

1. DECEMBER 16 PAPERS REPORT "NASSERIST" STUDENTS RIOTED AT MANSURA (CAPITAL OF DELTA PROVINCE OF SHARQYIA) UNIVERSITY DECEMBER 15. ACCORDING TO PRESS, STUDENTS HAD CALLED POLITICAL SEMINAR TO BE ADDRESSED BY INFLUENTIAL NASSERISTS KAMAL AL-DIN RIFAAT AND KAMAL AHMAD BUT WERE ASKED BY UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION TO POSTPONE MEETING BECAUSE NO ROOMS AVAILABLE. DISGRUNTLED STUDENTS THEN PARADED ABOUT CAMPUS CARRYING RIFAAT ALOFT AND SHOUTING "SENSATIONALIST" SLOGANS. THEY WERE UNSUCCESSFUL IN INCITING REST OF STUDENT BODY TO RIOT, PRESS REPORTS, BUT STORMED AND MANAGED TO OCCUPY FACULTY OF LAW CLASSROOM.

2. IN ADDRESS TO STUDENTS, RIFAAT JUSTIFIED HIS PARTICIPATION IN NEW SYSTEM OF POLITICAL PARTIES (WHICH NASSERISTS CRITICIZE) ON BASIS OF OPPORTUNITY IT GAVE HIM TO COUNTER "PLOTS AGAINST WORKING MASSES". SOUNDING SIMILAR NASSERIST THEME, KAMAL
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AHMAD SPOKE ON LACK OF TRUE DEMOCRACY IN EGYPT AND EXPRESSED CONTINUING OPPOSITION TO EXISTENCE OF PARTIES IN PRESENT FORM. UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS SAID TO BE "DISAPPOINTED" BY BEHAVIOUR OF TWO NASSERIST NOTABLES.

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWN PRESENTLY HOW ACCURATE

PRESS REPORTS ARE, BUT NOTE THAT RECENT MARCH ON PEOPLE'S
ASSEMBLY BY CAIRO UNIVERSITY NASSERISTS (CAIRO 16448) RECEIVED
FAIRLY FACTUAL COVERAGE. GOE POLICY AT PRESENT SEEMS TO LEAN
TOWARDS DISCLOSURE OF SUCH EVENTS WITH AIM OF LETTING STUDENT
AGITATORS DISCREDIT THEMSELVES AT TIME WHEN SADAT DEMOCRATIC
EXPERIMENT ENJOYING FAIRLY WIDE NATIONAL APPROVAL.
EILTS

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